

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 033971

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL MEETINGS IN BERLIN

REFS: (A) USBER 248 (B) BONN 2020 (C) BONN 2117

1.) WE AGREE WITH USBER (REFTEL A) THAT IT STRETCHING
ARGUMENT TO EQUATE ALLIED ATTENDANCE AT SOCIAL FUNCTIONS IN
BERLIN WITH "SUPPORT" FOR POLITICAL PARTIES CONCERNED OR
INTERVENTION IN BERLIN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. WHILE ALLIED
ATTENDANCE AT SUCH FUNCTION MIGHT BE SEEN AS CONNOTING
CERTAIN OFFICIAL "APPROVAL" OF FUNCTION TAKING PLACE, IT
WOULD NOT SIGNIFY OPEN "SUPPORT" FOR PARTY CONCERNED
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ANYMORE THAN ALLIED ATTENDANCE AT ANY OTHER SOCIAL

FUNCTION -- PARTICULARLY SINCE IT LONG ESTABLISHED PRACTICE FOR ALLIES TO ATTEND POLITICAL FUNCTIONS IN CARRYING OUT THEIR NORMAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN BERLIN. IN OUR VIEW, IMPORTANT THING IS THE ALLIES FOLLOW EVENHANDED POLICY.

2.) ON OTHER HAND, WE BELIEVE POLICY OF SELF-DENIAL SUCH AS THAT FOLLOWED IN CASE OF LIBERAL POLITICANS MEETING, HOLDS REAL DANGER OF BEING MISINTERPRETED BY SOVIETS AS

INDICATION THAT ALLIES ARE DOUBTFUL ABOUT OR DIVIDED ON LEGITIMACY OF HOLDING SUCH MEETINGS IN CITY.

3.) POSITION TAKEN IN BONN GROUP THAT ALLIES WOULD NOT ACCEPT INVITATION TO RECEPTION FOR INTERNATIONAL LIBERAL POLITICIANS' MEETING NOW MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR ALLIES TO ACCEPT INVITATION TO SIMILAR INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GATHERING IN PERIOD BEFORE ELECTION WITHOUT RAISING QUESTIONS WHY ALLIES ATTENDED ONE FUNCTION BUT NOT THE OTHER. WE AGREE WITH USBER, HOWEVER, THAT WHOLE MATTER SHOULD BE PROMPTLY REOPENED IN BONN GROUP WITH VIEW TOWARD REVERTING TO FORMER OPEN ATTENDANCE POLICY IMMEDIATELY AFTER FORTHCOMING BERLIN ELECTION. INGERSOLL

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